

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections made in the mentioned Office Action are respectfully requested, in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Summary of Amendments

By the foregoing amendments claims 1-10 are canceled and new claims 11-30 are added, whereby claims 11-30 are pending in the present application. Claims 11, 21 and 29 are independent claims. Support for the added claims can be found throughout the present specification and, in particular, in originally presented claims 1-10.

It is noted that the cancellation of claims 1-10 is without prejudice or disclaimer, and Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute these claims in one or more divisional and/or continuation applications.

Summary of Office Action

As an initial matter, Applicants note with appreciation that the claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) and receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents in this National Stage application from the International Bureau have been acknowledged in the present Office Action and that an initialed and signed copy of the Form PTO-1449 filed June 10, 2002 has been returned together with the Office Action.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention.

P22081.A04

Claims 1-10 also are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by JP 05-057507 (hereafter “KYOCERA”).

Response to Office Action

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of record are respectfully requested.

Response to Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. In this regard, the rejection alleges that in claim 1, the phrase “with a reference length of 5 microns” is unclear and that it is also unclear *what* has the claimed range limitations. The rejection furthermore alleges that in claim 8, the relationship between the innermost layer and the coating is unclear.

Regarding the phrase “with a reference length of 5 microns”, the Examiner’s attention is directed to the explanations given at page 6, lines 5-11, of the present specification. In particular, as a method of measuring the surface roughness, the section of the hard coating layer may be observed by means of a scanning electron microscope. The hard phase particles of sintered hard alloys and cermet are generally in the range of 3-5 μm , and the particles project and form an undulation with a height of 2-3 μm and a width of 5-7 μm . In order to eliminate the influence of such undulations, the reference length for specifying the surface roughness is set to 5 μm .

With respect to the rejection of claim 8, Applicants submit that claims 18 and 26 (which are based on claim 8) make it even clearer what the relationship between the innermost layer and the

P22081.A04

coating is.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph should be withdrawn, which action is respectfully requested.

Response to Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over KYOCERA

Claims 1-10 also are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by KYOCERA. In this regard, the Examiner bases the rejection on the limited understanding of the claims and alleges that the cited document discloses the claimed substrate, the claimed coating and the claimed thickness thereof.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. In this regard, Applicants note that KYOCERA does not appear to disclose, *inter alia*, a surface roughness (Rmax) of 0.2 μm or less substantially at a blade-edge ridge and in a region which extends at least 200 μm (500 μm) from a rake face side boundary of the ridge toward a rake face side, and extends at least 50 μm (200 μm) from a flank side boundary of the ridge toward a flank side, as recited in the present independent claims. For at least this reason, KYOCERA does not anticipate any of the claimed subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) is warranted and respectfully requested.

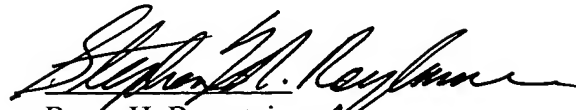
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. If any issues yet remain which can

P22081.A04

be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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